

MY VISION FOR AMERICA
(Sabrina Lewellen)

All across America members of the class of 1995 are contemplating which college to attend, what major to choose, what career to pursue, and even who to take to the senior prom. We are fortunate in that we can make these decisions as individuals. We are not plagued with the same uncertainties as some previous classes. The class of 1945 was filled with loyal Americans who put their dreams on hold to serve the cause of world peace. Similarly, the brave souls of the class of 1965 put their personal visions aside so that thousands of people in Vietnam could experience democracy.

No, my class does not face these immediate tasks, but we do have an obligation to each other, this country, and the thousands of Americans before us who gave their loyal services and even their lives.

Throughout our history countless people have worked toward an "ideal" America. One of freedom of expression, economic possibility, toleration of uniqueness, and peaceful resolutions. They contributed wholeheartedly for everyone's prosperity until the end. As well known playwright Thornton Wilder stated in his play *Our Town*, "Gradually, gradually, they let go hold of the earth—and the ambitions they had—and the pleasures they had—and the things they suffered—and the people they loved." They never stopped trying to turn the mediocre into the superior. They fought to make the country the best that it could be and we as the inheritors of the fruit of their imagination must make the best even better.

We have to realize that in order for a working unit to function properly each element must make its contribution. My vision for America is not one of apathy and selfishness, but of caring and involvement. Not one of violence and confusion, but one of peace and understanding. Sure, it's easy for me to sit and visualize a better society, but if I do not dedicate myself to this endeavor, how can I expect others to do the same? Therefore, my vision for America begins with me.

I plan to attend college and pursue a career in human environmental science. With this knowledge, I will strive to make not only a stronger America, but a healthier one. Additionally, I will utilize my gift as a public speaker to inform others, not only on my specific area of expertise, but on a variety of issues to help improve their every day lives.

This is what I plan to do. Now, what about you? Do you have a vision? How committed are you to making a change in this country?

We live in one of the greatest nations on earth. Our democracy grants us many freedoms and choices other nations only dream of having. We, first as individuals, then as a people must realize that we have to start today in order to make a better tomorrow. We can no longer stare at our Constitution in a glass chamber and view it only as a piece of paper. We must rekindle its flame, make it eternal, and transform it into a "living" document.

All it takes is one person, in one city, in one country, in one state, in these great United States. All it takes is one.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT'S DEATH

HON. HENRY B. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that I have formally

asked the President to honor the 50th anniversary of the death of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt by reissuing and updating the proclamation signed by President Harry Truman in 1945 declaring April 12th as a national day of mourning and prayer.

It is fitting, but a bit ironic and actually quite sad, for this landmark anniversary to occur this year at a time when at once the strength of Franklin Roosevelt is admired and longed for and yet the programs of this great President are under attack. I never thought I would live to see the day when Social Security, for instance, was placed on the chopping block as the new majority in Congress has so willingly done in refusing to exempt it from the balanced budget amendment. I certainly never thought I would see the day when the House would vote on the Constitution—the 4th amendment in this case—and reject it. What a sad legacy we have become to the great leaders who have preceded us such as Roosevelt—a man whose beliefs and programs embodied the preamble to the Constitution:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I am saddened by the reality that a great deal of the greatest constitution on Earth would undoubtedly be rejected by today's Congress if put to a vote, certainly the protections for minority viewpoints, for freedom of speech, and for the separation of church and State would be thrown out in an instant.

It is a perfect time to recall the strength, vision, and perseverance of President Roosevelt and to remember that the Government should be used as a tool for the betterment of all and not as a wedge to divide us for the benefit of a few. When the most dire economic times this country has faced confronted Roosevelt, he did not blame illegal immigrants, he did not blame the poor, and he did not blame the Government—instead, he used the resources of the Government to pull us out of the Great Depression. When confronted with evil from abroad, he used the resources of the Government not only to protect our country but to protect liberty worldwide.

Never before today has there been such anger toward and distrust of Government—not even during the Vietnam war or during Watergate. Those whose tactic has been to create distrust through lies and innuendo have trampled on the legacy of one who believed in Government, who believed in truth and justice, and who believed in the inherent wisdom and goodness of the American people. As sad as it is to remember the premature death of such a great man as Roosevelt, the timing is perhaps perfect to force us to look ourselves in the eye, to force ourselves to face our history, our present, and our future, and to force ourselves to remember the tradition of compassion, justice, and honesty that gave us definition for many years.

In this respect, then, I have asked the President bring the national focus to President Roosevelt on April 12th by declaring a national day of mourning and prayer. The following is President Truman's original proclamation from 1945 on the death of President Roosevelt:

A PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

To the People of the United States:

It has pleased God in His infinite wisdom to take from us the immortal spirit of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Thirty-second President of the United States.

The leader of his people in a great war, he lived to see the assurance of the victory but not to share it. He lived to see the first foundation of the free and peaceful world to which his life was dedicated, but not to enter on that world himself.

His fellow countrymen will sorely miss his fortitude and faith and courage in the time to come.

The people of the earth who love the ways of freedom and of hope will mourn for him.

But though his voice is silent, his courage is not spent, his faith is not extinguished. The courage of great men outlives them to become the courage of their people and the peoples of the world. It lives beyond them and upholds their purposes and brings their hopes to pass.

Now, therefore, I, Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America, do appoint Saturday next, April 14th, the day of the funeral services for the dead President, as a day of mourning and prayer throughout the United States. I earnestly recommend the people to assemble on that day in their respective places of divine worship, there to bow down in submission to the will of Almighty God and to pay out of full hearts their homage of love and reverence to the memory the great and good man whose death they mourn.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, the 13th day of April, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and forty-five, and of the independence of the United States, the one hundred and sixty-ninth.

By the President:

HARRY S. TRUMAN,
EDW. R. STETTINIUS, Jr.,
Secretary of State.

The White House, Washington, April 13, 1945.

REMEMBERING HENRY ATHALONE

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Mr. RUSH. It is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Henry Athalone, who passed from this life on March 4, 1995.

Henry Athalone was born on July 20, 1918, in the town of Steiner, MS. After moving to Chicago in 1952, he worked at the Lindberg Engineering Co. until his retirement.

Active in his community, Mr. Athalone was a member of the Holy Garden of Prayer Church under the leadership of Elder Jeffro Williams.

Henry was a devoted family man. He was married for nearly 56 years to his wife, the former Elnora Overton. To this union were